

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated September 18, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the phone interview on January 18, 2007.

Claims 1-6 and 10-17 are rejected and 7-9 and 18-20 are objected to by the Examiner. Claims 1, 5, 11, and 16 have been amended, and claim 21 has been added. Claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 11 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,496,172 to Hirakata (hereinafter “Hirakata ‘172”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,847,687 to Hirakata et al. (hereinafter “Hirakata ‘687”). Claims 6 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirakata ‘172 in view of Hirakata ‘687 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,739,804 to Okumura (hereinafter “Okumura”). Claims 10 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirakata ‘172 in view of Hirakata ‘687 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,271,816 to Jeong et al. (hereinafter “Jeong”). Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 7-9 and 18-20 contain allowable subject matter.

The rejection of claims 1-5, 11 and 15-16 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-4 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “allowing pixels outside the at least one pixel block to respond to data signals having a polarity contrary to each of the pixels adjacently arranged at left and right sides thereof.” Claim 5 is allowable over the cited references in that this claim recites a combination of elements including, for example, “second signal supplying means for applying data signals to pixels outside the at least one pixel block, wherein the applied

data signals have a polarity contrary to data signals applied to each of the pixels adjacently arranged at left and right sides thereof and also arranged outside the at least one pixel block.”

Claims 11 and 15 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “applying video signals to at least one second plurality of consecutively arranged data lines such that video signals having opposite polarities are applied to each of the pixels adjacent each other along a gate line direction, wherein data lines within the at least one second plurality of consecutively arranged data lines are not included within the at least one first plurality of consecutively arranged data lines.” Claim 16 is allowable over the cited references in that this claim recites a combination of elements including, for example, “second signal supplying means for applying video signals to at least one second plurality of consecutively arranged data lines such that video signals having opposite polarities are applied to each of the pixels adjacent each other along a gate line direction, wherein data lines within the at least one second plurality of consecutively arranged data lines are not included within the at least one first plurality of consecutively arranged data lines.” HIRAKATA ‘172 and HIRAKATA ‘687, singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention.

The Examiner in the Response to Applicant’s Remarks identifies Figs. 17A and 17B of HIRAKATA ‘172 as teaching this feature. The claims as amended call for video signals having opposite polarities “applied to each of the pixels adjacent each other along a gate line direction.” This is not the case in HIRAKATA, as each of the pixels outside the first block in Figs. 17A or 17B do not have an opposite polarity with adjacent pixels. Rather, each pixel in Figs. 17A and 17B have one adjacent pixel with an opposite polarity and the other adjacent pixel with the same polarity. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-5, 11 and 15-16 are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 6, 10, 12-14, and 17 are allowable over Hirakata '172 and Hirakata '687 for the same reasons as stated above. Further, neither Okumura nor Jeong cure the deficiencies of Hirakata '172 and Hirakata '687, so claims 6, 10, 12-14, and 17 are allowable over the cited references.

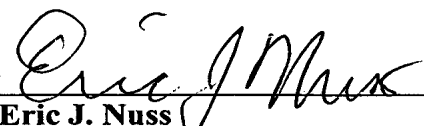
Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 18, 2007

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